

**SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR FACILITATING COMMERCE IN  
COMPONENT-BASED INDUSTRIES**

**ABSTRACT**

**[0081]** A system and methods for managing and transacting business in a component-based industry, and especially the Green Industry. The invention includes a database of materials offered by suppliers in the industry, preferably including inventory, pricing, quality, and other specifications related to the materials. The invention allows buyers to enter material information, including specifications, to create a request for quotation (RFQ's), and the invention can analyze the RFQ's and distribute them to appropriate suppliers, thereby streamlining the RFQ process. The invention also preferably includes business management software, which helps automate business operations for the suppliers, and keeps the information in the database current. In addition to RFQ's, the invention also allows buyers to purchase material from suppliers through a virtual storefront interface. The invention also facilitates the creation of virtual trade shows, and auctions of various materials, and can disseminate news and other information.